

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the examination of this application proceed on the basis of the amendatory action taken herein and that this amendment be entered prior to calculating the filing fee and according the application a filing date.

Support for the new set of claims can be found in the claims of the International Application PCT/EP00/03586 as filed.

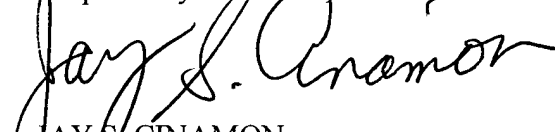
It is respectfully submitted that the claims distinguish over Pannell, U.S. 5,288,632 by evidence provided by Gruenwald et al. and Sagar et al., WO 94/22572. Accordingly the §102 rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

The claims also serve to distinguish over the same set of references mentioned above which were objected to in the Final Rejection under §103(a). Accordingly, this rejection has also been overcome and should be withdrawn.

The issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 34-49 is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any fees which may be due to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,


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